

Essay Question: What is the most important lesson you learned while working at the theatre that you think will help you throughout your life?

The biggest thing I've learned from working at Cinemark is that attitude is everything.

Working at a movie theater was the first job I've had where I really was able to have fun while working. My previous jobs have almost all been physical labor, often exposed to the elements and have not been what I would call "fun". That's not to say those jobs weren't beneficial to me, they taught me how to put effort into my work and they gave me my current work ethic. That being said, working at Cinemark was a breath of fresh air! Constant air conditioning, much less taxing physical work, great coworkers I can talk to during downtime, and managers that feel like friends as well as leaders. That's not to mention the obvious outside of hours perks like free movies. For the first time ever, I loved my job and I took pride in it. Each time I learned a new position was an opening to obtain new shifts, talk to new coworkers, and diversify my week. I loved the hectic nature of box office, the service that comes with working the stand, the speed and observational skills that is required of tills, and even learned to appreciate the most laborious shifts that were exclusively given to me, maintenance shifts. I even applied to become a manager at one point.

As I rounded out my first year with Cinemark, I'll be honest. Work started to stagnate for me and shifts felt more and more monotonous. Often, I'd have to catch myself going into autopilot with a monotone voice and repeating the script I had created for every guest for every position. Having learnt every position, there wasn't much for me to look forward to except maybe another chance at manager. However! I eventually discovered new passions and hobbies outside of work and was able to carry the excitement and happiness into the start of my shifts, and soon I realized that work didn't feel dreary anymore. My pride in my work had come back.

Of course, the feelings for discovering something new don't last, but I had learned a valuable lesson. Work is what I make of it, and coming into a shift with a positive outlook changes the outlook of the entire shift. I've started looking forward to the maintenance shifts that I had dreaded, glad to see the coworkers I see each opening Monday. I enjoy the occasional usher shift, always peaceful and a chance to meet the new hires. But that's neither here nor there. My point is, again, attitude is everything. I know now that in my future endeavors that if I look to appreciate the little things, that if I clock in excited for something, that everything will be alright. Time flies when you're having fun, after all.